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TITLE : SUNPROOF CAROTENE

ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To provide the title carotene which retains stably its color tone even when stored in the presence of oxygen, water, air, etc., under the irradiation with sunlight over a long period of time and is suitable for use as a food additive, by microencapsulating (oil-diluted) carotene with a specified shell-forming material.

CONSTITUTION: Carotene (a) (e.g., one which is extracted from palm oil, concentrated and refined) is optionally diluted with food oil (b) (e.g., colza oil) to obtain (oil-diluted) carotene (A). Separately, 1-300wt% sunproofing agent (c) having a particle size of 0.01-50 $\mu$ m (e.g., TiO<sub>2</sub>) or 0.5-20wt% ultraviolet absorber (d) (e.g.,  $\alpha$ -bisabolol) is dispersed in a shell-forming material (e) (e.g., gelatin) to obtain a shell-forming material (B) contg. the component (c) or (d). The component A is microencapsulated by using the component B to obtain the title carotene having a particle size of 10-3,000 $\mu$ m, pref. 50-2,000 $\mu$ m.

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